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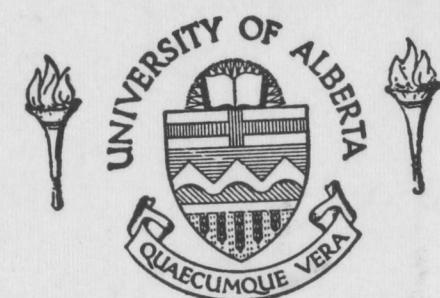
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CANADIAN WESTERN NATURAL GAS COMPANY LIMITED

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1912

1962

Half a  
Century of  
Service

Canadian Western  
Natural Gas Company

Science  
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## DEDICATION

This booklet is dedicated to the hundreds of men and women who through the years, as employees of Canadian Western Natural Gas Company, have made possible 50 years of natural gas service to the people of Southern Alberta.

Many of them devoted most of their lives to the service of the public. Because of their number we regret it is impossible to mention them by name. But on this, the company's 50th Anniversary, we salute them for playing such a major part in building a better Alberta.

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA

*Job Ken*



**EUGENE COSTE**  
**1912-1922**

Discoverer of the Bow Island gas field, Mr. Coste was the founding president of Canadian Western. He also held the titles of managing director or chief engineer during his term of office. (See story page 16).

Photo by Pollard



**H. B. PEARSON**  
**1922-1925**

General superintendent of Canadian Western in 1912, Mr. Pearson became chief engineer and general manager in 1920. In 1921 he became vice-president and was appointed president and manager in 1922.



**H. R. MILNER**  
**1932-1949**

Connected with the Alberta gas industry since 1919, Mr. Milner became solicitor for Canadian Western in 1925. In 1932 he was appointed president and led the company through the difficult depression and war years. In his presidency the company's spectacular post-war growth began. In 1949 he was appointed chairman. Today Mr. Milner is active as a director and honorary chairman of the board of directors.



**D. K. YORATH**  
**1956-1962**

Mr. Yorath started with the company August 1, 1924. He first became a director in 1940. In 1946 he was named corporate secretary. He then went to Edmonton as general manager of Northwestern Utilities. In 1956 he succeeded Mr. Brownie as president and Canadian Western continued to expand under his leadership. He is now chairman and principal officer of the company.



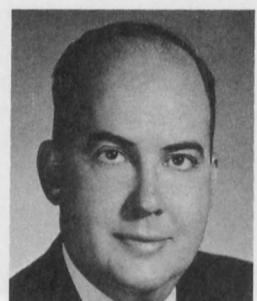
**C. J. YORATH**  
**1925-1932**

Former Commissioner of the City of Edmonton, Mr. Yorath was appointed president of Northwestern Utilities, Limited in 1924. On June 15, 1925 he became president and managing director of Canadian Western Natural Gas Company, holding the office until his death in March, 1932.



**F. A. BROWNIE**  
**1949-1956**

Mr. Brownie started with the company November 18, 1935. He was appointed assistant to the vice-president in 1939 and became general manager and executive assistant to the president in 1947. In 1949 Mr. Brownie was named president and guided the company during a period of exceedingly rapid growth. His career was cut short by his death in January, 1956, at the age of 47.



**B. F. WILLSON**  
**1962-**

Following a number of positions in the company Mr. Willson became president on February 1, 1962. Previously he had been executive vice-president. He began his career with the companies in 1945 in Edmonton, his birthplace. He is a graduate in engineering of University of Alberta.

# Company Presidents through the Years

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# *A Record of Service*

*A statement on our 50th anniversary by Bruce F. Willson,  
President, Canadian Western Natural Gas Company Limited*

This year Canadian Western marks the 50th anniversary of natural gas service in Alberta. Today, many areas of North America are just beginning to realize the conveniences of a service that Albertans have enjoyed since 1912.

The founders of our industry had great foresight and initiative. It is almost staggering to think that on the basis of a few wells in the small Bow Island field a company was organized, money raised, material ordered and a 170-mile line built to serve Lethbridge and Calgary. This was accomplished in less than 13 months.

It is even more unusual when one recalls that the pipeline itself was one of the longest in North America up to that time; and that it was built in the short space of 86 days, with little of the equipment that is available today.

We are more aware today of the risks of exploring for natural gas, of the problems of finding it, of the investment needed to develop it, and the high cost of processing it. But such problems did not deter the pioneer Alberta gas men.

It is because of their efforts, and through the skills and experience of 50 years, that Alberta today has what we believe is the finest gas service on the continent . . . and at virtually the lowest cost in North America.

During the history of Canadian Western more than \$50 million has been raised and expended by the company in developing reserves

and extending gas service to more and more people. In addition, of course, millions more have been spent by exploration companies.

Today the natural gas business . . . in all its aspects of exploration, production, transmission and distribution . . . is a vital, thriving and important Alberta industry.

Not only did Canadian Western bring a modern fuel to the people of Alberta at a time when most of the world was still shovelling coal or burning wood; but the availability of natural gas has done much to spark the industrial development of the province.

People today are inclined to take natural gas service for granted. Perhaps this is as it should be. But behind the burner is an organization of skilled personnel operating a complex network of pipelines and equipment, pumping, processing and distributing natural gas, regulating its pressure, and maintaining an intricate system of checks and balances that assures quality and constant performance.

We in Canadian Western are dedicated to providing natural gas to the people of Southern Alberta. We are proud of the fact that no matter how low the temperature drops, or how hard the wind blows in the dead of winter, each of our customers has all the fuel he requires.

We hope to go on providing such a service for all time to come. Our predecessors founded well. As was their motto so is ours today . . . to provide the finest possible gas service to the people of Southern Alberta.



# *It all Began . . .*

By Harold G. Long \*

On a February day in 1909 Old Glory blew in.

Open flow of this Bow Island discovery well was 8,500,000 cubic feet a day, biggest gas well in Western Canada up to that time. It put the four-year-old Province of Alberta on the map, and particularly the Bow Island-Burdett area.

Old Glory was the fuse which led to the spectacular development of the oil and gas industry which has made Alberta one of the richest per capita provinces in Canada today.

To two men in particular goes the credit for the Old Glory strike at Bow Island—Eugene Coste, who headed what became Canadian

Western Natural Gas Company, and W. R. "Frosty" Martin, head driller in the field. Mr. Coste was of French descent, with an engineering degree from a French university. "Frosty" Martin was a toolpush who learned his job in Pennsylvania and in the Petrolia-Sarnia oil fields of Ontario. They made a great team.

The Old Glory strike on the bank of the South Saskatchewan River led to the drilling of six more wells in the Bow Island area. They all produced, and by 1911 held promise of sufficient reserves to supply Calgary as well as Lethbridge, even though Lethbridge's chief industry at that time was coal mining in the seams which underlay the city and district. Coal was, in fact, the reason that Lethbridge was founded by the Galt family in the early 1880's.

This historic photograph was taken in 1912 as a load of pipe, delivered by railway to Claresholm, was being taken to location of the Bow Island to Calgary by a tractor train of 12 wagons. Maltman Shaw of Midnapore is driving the tractor. —Photo courtesy of Glenbow Foundation



\* For biographical note see page 31.

Up to that time two gas companies had been operating in Calgary. One, the Calgary Gas Company, had an artificial gas plant with some 30 miles of mains and about 2,250 customers. The other, the Calgary Natural Gas Company had a small supply of natural gas from a shallow well, known as the Colonel Walker well, in East Calgary. It supplied gas for street lighting and to about 50 consumers in that part of the city.

The first step in Mr. Coste's plan to bring natural gas to the people of Southern Alberta was to obtain a lease, in 1911, from the Canadian Pacific Railway of the Bow Island reserves. It had been while Mr. Coste was a consulting engineer for the CPR that he had discovered the Bow Island field.

Mr. Coste was not only an engineer; he was a promoter in the best sense of the term. He convinced Sir Clifford Sifton, once Minister of the Interior in the Ottawa cabinet, and Sir William Mackenzie, then president of the Canadian Northern Railway which was pushing a second trans-continental railway across the prairies, that the building of the proposed Bow Island-Lethbridge-Calgary pipeline was a good bet.

Mr. Coste went to England then to raise money for what he called the "Prairie Natural Gas Company." However, the English people had never seen the prairie, and had never heard of natural gas, with the result that Mr. Coste came back empty-handed. He then changed the name of the company to "The Canadian Western Natural Gas, Light, Heat and Power Company Limited," and returned overseas, where he had no difficulty in obtaining funds for a company described in terms which those people understood.

On July 19, 1911, Canadian Western was incorporated, and on August 11, 1911 the two Calgary franchises were assigned to Canadian Western, which thus became the owner of both the artificial and natural gas properties and their franchise rights. Then began the planning for the pipeline from Bow Island to Calgary via Lethbridge.

The main transmission line—a 16-inch 170-mile undertaking, was started on April 22, 1912, and was completed in 86 days. It was

the third longest pipeline in North America at the time, and the longest for its diameter.

By Friday, July 12, 1912, gas in the new pipeline had reached the Oldman River eight miles due north of Lethbridge. A flare was set off that evening which lighted the area for several miles around. On the following Monday, Lethbridge ratepayers voted 275 to 112 in favor of granting a franchise to Canadian Western. The big natural gas flare the previous Friday evening proved to be a winner.

On the night of July 17, 12,000 Calgarians lined Scotsman's Hill to watch the inaugural flare at 9th Avenue East and the CPR tracks. Then followed a week of preparation and testing the mains

Pipeline building in the 1920's was largely a manual job. Here the pipe is being coupled together during construction of the line from Turner Valley oil and gas field to the city of Calgary in 1922.



which were installed at the same time the main pipeline was being built.

On July 24, 1912, The Calgary Herald had this to say:

"This morning marked a new epoch in the history of lighting and heating insofar as gas is concerned in Calgary. Artificial gas in the city is now a thing of the past. The ringing out of the old and the ringing in of the new has taken place, and the natural product has supplanted the artificial."

The towns of Nanton and Okotoks were tied in with the big transmission line the same year, with Macleod, Granum and Claresholm joining up in 1913. The natural gas division of the great gas-oil industry in Alberta today was on the rails. In the same year of 1912, the company acquired the facilities serving the town of Brooks.

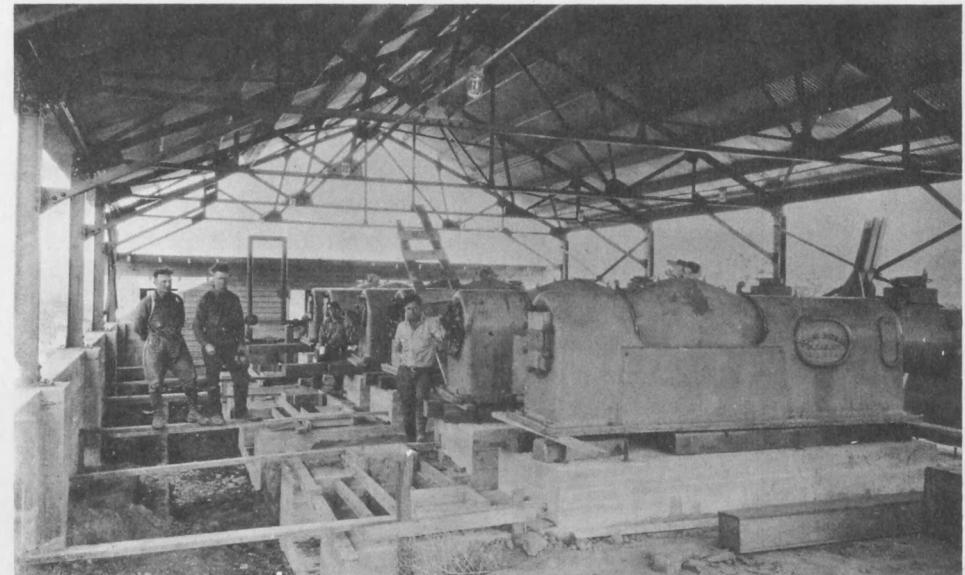
Although much of the original transmission pipe has been replaced over the years, natural gas continues to flow through the

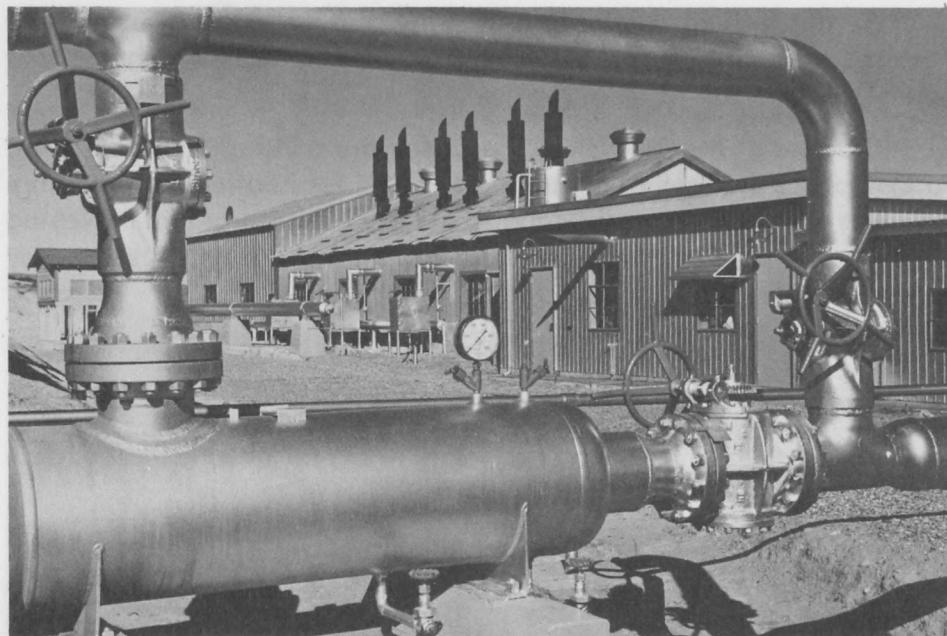
route laid out for Alberta's first major gas transmission line.

Though at the time the first gas pipeline was launched it seemed that the Bow Island field would carry the load for a long time, the demand for the product grew so fast that it soon became evident that new producing fields must be found.

The company obtained gas from the Chin Coulee field in 1918. This field was short-lived, but other fields have augmented the supply over the years. The company has been taking gas from Turner Valley since 1922. It developed the Foremost field, south of Bow Island, in 1924. In 1951 the Jumping Pound field, west of Calgary, was connected to the system as a major source of supply, the line having been built in 1950. Bow Island now is being used as a storage field with quantities of natural gas from Turner Valley being pumped back into the depleted gas sands each summer for future needs as a reserve for peak-load demands.

These two views were taken during construction of the compressor plant at Bow Island gas field in June, 1930.





Bow Island Compressor Station today. Now used as a storage field, Bow Island supplies gas for the southern part of system throughout the winter months. Compressor plant is in background.

In 1958 the company built a 58-mile line to the Carbon field, northeast of Calgary, where it had acquired reserves. This field is an increasingly important source of peak gas.

The big development in Alberta came with the Leduc strike in 1947. The lid was off from Peace River to the Montana border.

Some 10,000 oil and gas wells have struck, and Alberta oil and gas are being transmitted east, west and south. Gas has been developed in new fields spread over most of Alberta, with spectacular gas fields developed in many sectors of the province, especially along the foothills of the Rockies. Two big gas-condensate fields are now producing south of the town of Pincher Creek, near Waterton Lakes National Park. It was in this area that "Kootenai" Brown and Bill Aldridge discovered seepage oil on the back-waters of Cameron Creek as far back as 1886, with John Lineham and A. P. Patrick bringing in Alberta's first oil well there in 1902. The first

well flowed at 125 barrels a day, but it was seepage oil from far down in the depths of the Rockies, and did not last long.

It is a far cry from Peter Pond's discovery of the Athabasca tar sands in 1788, and the discovery of gas at Langevin—now the Suffield area—in 1883 by an engineer of the CPR, seeking water for the steam locomotives on Canada's first transcontinental railway, to the oil-gas development in Alberta today.

This development has pushed the Alberta coal mining industry into the background, but it has made the province rich. Most of the 654 billion cubic feet of natural gas produced in Canada in 1961 came from Alberta; in 1921 Canada's total gas production was only 14 billion feet.

The government of Alberta has collected in rights, royalties and lease rentals more than \$1.2 billion since the 1947 oil strike at Leduc, and the annual budget passed by the Legislative Assembly now runs over \$325,000,000, much of it oil-gas earnings that go into the provincial treasury.

One of the wells in the important Carbon field northeast of Calgary.

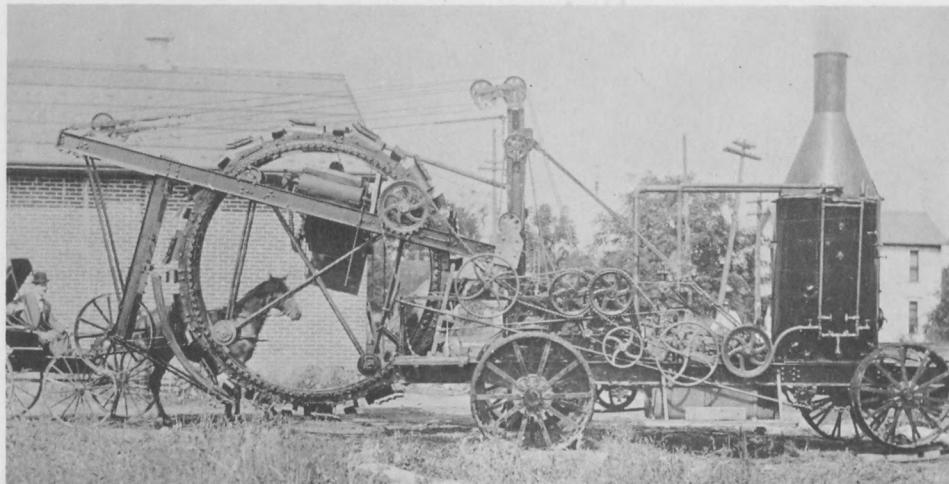


With this tremendous 'development there came a population "explosion" that saw Alberta's cities and town grow and grow. Many doubled in size in just a few short years. Calgary, for instance, grew from 100,000 in 1946 to 254,000 in 1961; while Lethbridge jumped from 16,500 to 35,000 in the same period.

Canadian Western met this unprecedeted challenge by extending pipelines and facilities to keep pace with the growth of new subdivisions, new homes and new factories. In 10 years after the war, for example, it spent \$40,000,000 in gross additions to plant.

Some of the major extensions were from Calgary to Banff in 1951; from Lethbridge to Cardston in 1955; from Nevis to Airdrie in 1956. In 1959 and 1960 alone 24 new communities were provided with natural gas for the first time.

Early trenching machine of the type used in construction of the Bow Island to Calgary pipeline in 1912. Coal-fired boiler produced steam to provide the power. Despite its looks it worked well.



At the end of 1945 the company was serving about 25,000 customers. Today it serves 100,000 in 81 communities throughout Southern Alberta.

Oldsters of the Bow Island gas discovery generation are inclined to look at natural gas as a fuel mostly used for heating and cooking. The fact is that, in the past couple of decades, natural gas is playing an ever-expanding part in the development of Alberta's secondary industries.

Here in Southern Alberta natural gas is generating electricity—Lethbridge electric utility was one of the first to switch from coal to gas. Natural gas is providing power for the beet sugar industry, and is used also in sugar plants for drying and pelleting the dried, enriched beet pulp for beef cattle feedlots.

Irrigation farmers are installing gas-driven engine pumps for their sprinkler systems with most satisfactory results. Breweries too, are finding natural gas is an economical fuel. Gas plays a large role in canning plants, and the indications are that it will be used widely in the immediate future for drying alfalfa for flaking and use in the growing market for livestock feeds. Large users include the nitrogen plant in Calgary, which uses natural gas as a raw material; the oil refineries, the cement plant at Exshaw, and hundreds of others both large and small.

Indeed, Alberta's natural gas is rapidly becoming one of the important factors in the development of the secondary industries the province is anxious to foster.

It is one of Southern Alberta's proud boasts that, in the main, Alberta's gas industry stemmed from Bow Island's Old Glory. That first gusher in the Bow Island gas field is now but a memory, but it paved the way for the development to come. Through it Alberta today is "Canada's Oil and Gas Province."

# *Life in 1912*



*By John Hopkins \**

The 12th year of the 20th Century:

That wonderful year, as they say, of 1912. There were war clouds forming over Europe, but few cared enough to look. Science was just beginning to open its bag of wonders and treasures and who wanted to spoil everything by listening for the sound of marching feet?

The automobile was coming along nicely, thank you, even if they didn't always start. And what if there was a shortage of good roads, at least the things didn't have to be fed and harnessed?

There was a suspicion that the aeroplane was here to stay (the true visionaries were talking of planes that could land and take



off on water) and new office equipment on the market meant that even a girl could become a secretary.

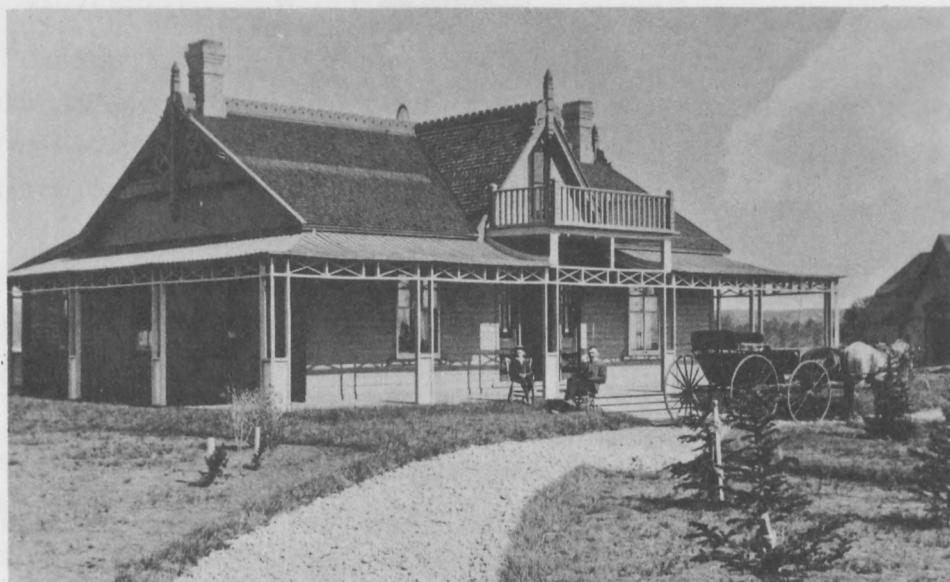
The telephone was something of a necessity (early in 1912 in Calgary there were 160 applications that couldn't be met because of a shortage of equipment) and newspapers were running pictures of events in Europe only two weeks after they took place.

It was a dizzy whirl, really. There was, for example, Guy Weadick's first Calgary Stampede, to be held in September. Conspicuous advertisements at the time pointed up some elegant logic: If 50,000 persons attended the Stampede and each spent only \$10,

These views of 8th Avenue, Calgary were taken in 1912. —Photos courtesy of Glenbow Foundation



\* For biographical note see page 31.



Typical of the ranch homes of the early days of the century is the Colonel Walker estate in East Calgary. Gas from a well discovered on this farm was used for a few street lights about 1910.  
—H. Pollard photograph

well, there was \$500,000 in hard cash for the businessmen. Weadick also announced that he had invited the governors of seven states to attend. There's no record of how many finally made it.

In Europe there was the coronation of George V to think about. Billionaire Pierpont Morgan spent \$5,000 for two floors of Gloucester House so that he could see the procession. And all Britain laughed when it turned out that Mr. Morgan was so high up he couldn't see anything.

The women had run into a setback in their campaign for equal rights. This was no time to talk of equality with the country still shouting the gallantry of the men who had died aboard the Titanic (in April) in order that women might live. Some of the suffragettes, though, merely regretted that the women hadn't been given an equal chance to drown.

In Calgary, a nine-room house with five bedrooms could be bought for \$5,000 (landscaped and fenced) and at the public library

the newest books were such cliff-hangers as "Audel's Answers on Automobiles," and "Home Life In Norway," or "The Handbook of Trees of the Northern States and Canada."

The sale price of men's tailored suits was \$10.65, reduced from a completely unreasonable \$16.50 and Norman Luxton was advertising a 42-mile boat trip on Lake Minnewanka for \$2.50. W. K. Willson, secretary of the Calgary Board of Trade, was warning the Dominion government that unless an addition was built on the post office, it would be impossible to conduct the business of 1913. They made it.

A year's water supply for a five-room house in Calgary cost \$5 and even the penny-pinchers had to agree with Commissioner A. G. Graves that this was "ridiculously low". And a car called the American Underslung was being touted as the safest car ever built.

Prince Albert was being described as "The Edmonton of Saskatchewan," which seemed a poor way to sell Prince Albert building lots in Calgary. . . . Everyone was convinced that Seventh Avenue was going to become the city's retail centre. . . . And while not everyone was for tennis that year, there were enough to open the new courts and clubhouse of the Calgary Lawn Tennis Club.

Heavy June rains caused flooding around High River, one life was lost, property damage ran well into the thousands and all train traffic from the south was delayed for days. . . . Calgary was laughing over two brothers who were arrested for vagrancy, then didn't speak a word for 56 days. And after that time they still managed only a "no," when asked if they had indeed lost their powers of speech.

There was something familiar about city hall. The city treasurer was accusing the parks superintendent of spending too much money.

The rocking-chair business was booming, and so it should have at \$8 a chair. Pat Burns was busy denying rumors that the Rothschilds had bought his gold mine in Mexico . . . and The Ladies Home Journal had some sound advice: It is exceedingly bad manners for

a girl to slap a man on the back, or lay a hand upon him in any way, or for him to touch her except for a friendly handshake.

The whistlers of the day were getting their lips around such tunes as "Oh, You Beautiful Doll," "What's the Matter With Father?" "Everybody's Doing It," and the real sports were experimenting with Irving Berlin's classic that changed a nation's taste in music "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

In an entertainment sense, politics was an excellent substitute for television. Asked about Princeton President Woodrow Wilson, one Boston matron replied: "No one who has been a schoolmaster all his life is quite big enough to be president of the United States." Someone didn't agree. And the colored vote? "Why, sir, every patriotic white man knows that God never intended the Negro to take part in the government of this or any other country."

In Calgary there was a thing called wards. And in June of 1912 J. G. Hester and J. G. Ruttle were opponents in a ward four by-election. . . . At the Empire there was a vaudeville bill. At the Empress one could see the gripper called The First Kidnapping Case (pure farce comedy at its farciest best and reeking with roars of laughter). In the Sherman Grand they were showing "The Crowning of our King and Queen in India."

There was some difficulty in describing movies so the thing was billed as "being reproduced in motion by photography." . . . Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer and Bassano were in a four-team baseball league and, as of mid-July, Bassano was making the larger centres eat crow. . . . For 20 cents one could buy a panoramic picture of Calgary which was six feet long.



This gas range has been in service for 50 years. Mrs. T. G. LaRose of Calgary is more than proud of the wonderful, trouble-free service it provided for half a century.

Ice cream had become a vital issue in a Lord's Day Act dispute. Dr. T. G. McDonald, medical superintendent of schools, testified flatly in court that ice cream was a food and thus could legally be sold on Sundays. In east Calgary, the sidewalk superintendents were having a field-day watching the construction of the Calgary Brewing grain elevator.

Word reached the city that an 11,000-ton steamer being built on the Clyde would be named The Calgarian. Everyone seemed happy about it. . . . And the city was preparing for a visit from the Duke of Connaught but no one was quite sure who was going to pay for such things as decorations.

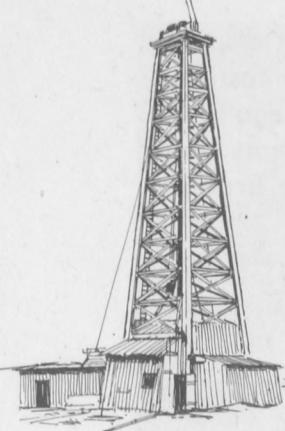
The Duke of Windsor, then Prince of Wales, in his 19th year, was generally regarded as the world's most eligible bachelor. A Baltimore girl named Wallace Warfield was dancing the summer away, still four years from her first marriage. . . . A room could be had for \$12 a month and Bombadier Wells and Abe Attell were as good or better than any boxers around.

A writer, in a national magazine, was criticizing the entire aviation world. "The industry has gone so far," he exploded, "as to promise that London will soon be within five days of India. No wonder the public has lost faith in the entire business." He's still wondering what happened.

Clarence Darrow, the lawyers' lawyer, was on trial in Los Angeles on a bribery charge. . . . For the first six months of 1912, Calgary was third among the nation's cities in building permits—a respectable total of \$8,540,870. . . . The Emperor of Japan was dying while the subjects of another monarch, Queen Mary, were reading that she was "simply mad" about dancing.

Ninety-six lots surrounding Calgary's university site were being sold for \$1 a week and purchasers were promised that construction of the university would begin shortly. . . . Women were warned that they lost 40 cents on every dollar if they purchased American-made corsets and, as if this wasn't enough of a worry, citizens were being asked to decorate the city for the Stampede.

And that's how it was in 1912.



# The Discovery of the Bow Island Field

Shortly after the turn of the century the Canadian Pacific Railway sent its consulting geologist, Eugene Coste, to Alberta in its search for oil and gas. Mr. Coste later was to become the first president of Canadian Western Natural Gas.

Some holes were drilled in the vicinity of Dunmore and other areas in southeastern Alberta. Then Mr. Coste chose a location on the bank of the South Saskatchewan river near Bow Island.

The driller was the late W. R. "Frosty" Martin, assisted among others by A. P. "Tiny" Phillips, long a prominent driller in Alberta and still living in Calgary.

Here is Mr. Martin's account of the events that led to the bringing in of Well No. 1, more familiarly called "Old Glory," in February, 1909.

"Mr. Coste's plan was to explore the possibilities of gas or oil in the various holdings of the C.P.R. The first well was located by Mr. Coste at Dunmore.

"During the process of this drilling, of course, they ran into Medicine Hat sand, which is very productive at this point. They endeavored to get the 8-inch casing through this sand, but it was frozen\* and the idea of drilling a deeper well was abandoned. The tools were then moved to a location near Suffield where they had a 10-mile water line to the river.

\* Stuck in the hole.

"My predecessor was talked . . . into buying another string of tools and this was moved to the location at Bow Island. The Suffield well did produce some gas, barely enough to operate the gas engine.

"At this point I came on the job. The wooden derrick had been built at Bow Island, the pipe and fuel were on the ground. Mr. Coste came out about that time and he ordered the rig torn down and the tools moved to another location. I was able to reason with him, due to the fact that we had all the equipment ready to go and our camp established, that it wouldn't take long to drill the well on down to Medicine Hat sand. With this he agreed.

Drilling crew that brought in Bow Island No. 1 in February 1909 poses with Eugene Coste, founder of the company. At left are W. R. "Frosty" Martin and H. Gloyd. At the right are Garrett W. Green, who later became general superintendent of Northwestern Utilities, and A. P. "Tiny" Phillips.

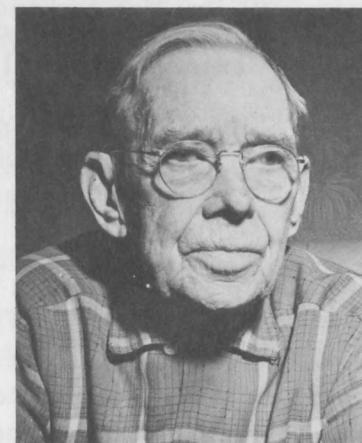


"Everything seemed to run along fairly well and as per the custom in those days the man in charge of that sort of work was a long ways from headquarters. He was inclined to create what we called a 'bank roll,' this being a hold-back on the actual depth of the well, saving a few hundred feet from time to time in case something would go wrong and you could report progress while you were in trouble.

"That was the case of Bow Island—we had some trouble with the water in the big hole where we set 10-inch pipe through the water, finally reached the Medicine Hat sand at about 1,100 feet. However, my records to the office in Winnipeg showed we were only 900 feet deep, having in mind that we could reach the Dakota sandstone, and I didn't know what depth.

"Things were going pretty nicely and I went on ahead drilling and got along fairly well until about 1,700 feet. I ran into a lot of trouble. In the meantime I was advising Winnipeg and Mr. Coste that we were about ready to enter Medicine Hat sand and finally we had to report that the well did not amount to very much in the Medicine Hat sand. I suggested that as we had a nice hole, everything was in good shape, that we continue on down for a few hundred feet or more, as we had the pipe, fuel and everything to do it with.

"Coste wasn't very well satisfied with this and suggested that we do not do it. I kept reporting progress up until finally I reached the fishing job with my bank roll, and I was ordered by wire to abandon.



A. P. "Tiny" Phillips, a member of the Bow Island drilling crew in 1909. Mr. Phillips, now 77, still lives in Calgary.



The late W. R. "Frosty" Martin, driller on the Bow Island crew that brought in "Old Glory," the field's discovery well.

well burned for about four material.

"About this time Mr. Coste got the idea that if a big field was developed there the chances were that Calgary and the intervening towns could be supplied from it. In order to make the next test we went down the river about one mile from the No. 1 location, and drilled a well. We got Dakota sandstone and about three million feet of gas. Of course we were anxious to see if there was any more gas in the sandstone at a greater depth and only drilled 15 or 20 feet and ran into water—that took care of that!

"The next well was drilled up the river about one mile and that well came in, making 13 million feet. It was at that time that the negotiations were opened up with regard to taking over the C.P.R. leases and the acquiring of the Calgary Gas Company and the Dingman franchise. Mr. Coste finally made a deal with Pat Burns for the Calgary franchise. Later negotiations with the C.P.R. were completed."

"After waiting a day or two, I wrote a lot of alibis instead of wiring, that way gaining a few more days. After two or three more wires to abandon, we finally got through the fishing job; that was about 1,700 feet plus.

"A few days later we were down to 1,909 feet. We had run into Dakota sandstone and the well was producing about eight million feet. I wired Mr. Coste and he wired me to order 4-inch tubing and the necessary equipment to tube the well and that he would be out shortly. The months awaiting the arrival of this

# Eugene Coste



Eugene Marius Coste has been called the father of the natural gas industry in Canada, for it was he who first brought in commercial discoveries of natural gas in Ontario in 1889, and in Alberta in 1909.

It was largely due to his efforts that Canada's two oldest natural gas companies were founded: Union Gas Company of Canada Limited in Ontario, and Canadian Western Natural Gas Company, as it is now known, in Alberta. Both were incorporated in 1911, with Eugene Coste being first president of Canadian Western.

Eugene Coste was the son of Napoleon Alexandre Coste, who was born in Marseilles, France on December 3, 1835. As was natural for a boy born in an important shipping port, Napoleon went to sea, although his father had given him a training along engineering lines.

Eventually he found himself on the Great Lakes, and left ship at Amherstburg, on the Detroit River below Windsor. He soon settled down to a life ashore as a schoolteacher. There he married Mathilde Robidoux. In 1856 he took out British citizenship. By the time he was 25 he had so impressed the people of the area that he was elected reeve of Malden township, serving until 1863.

Eugene was born in Amherstburg on July 8, 1859. The couple had a daughter, Anna, and two other sons, Louis, born in 1857 and Denis Alexandre, in 1861.

Napoleon, however, yearned to return to Europe and in 1863 the family went to Marseilles. Opportunity, however, took him to Egypt where Ferdinand de Lesseps began the building of the Suez Canal.

Coste soon became a contractor handling much of the work on the canal. On November 17, 1869 he was given the honor of piloting L'Aigle, the first ship to enter the canal. He continued to work in Egypt for several years and in 1874, at Port Said, Coste's youngest son, Maurice Rene, was born. In 1881 the family moved to England, where the daughter, Anna, died.

Canada still beckoned Napoleon, however, for in 1882 the family returned to Amherstburg. He renewed his interest in politics, and from 1884 to 1903 again was reeve of Malden with the exception of one year, when he was defeated. He died in 1910.

The Coste children meanwhile had been sent to school at Grenoble in France and later Louis and Eugene studied at the University of Paris. On November 9, 1876 Eugene received the degree of Bachelor of Science from the Academie de Paris and went on to the Ecole Polytechnique, where he studied until 1879. He then went to the Ecole National Superieure des Mines, graduating on July 23, 1883 as a mining engineer.

That same year Eugene sailed for Canada. He joined the Geological Survey of Canada in a subordinate position and in 1887 was named a mining engineer with the Survey. In 1887 also he married Catherine Louisa Tims, daughter of Thomas Dillon Tims, inspector general of finance for the Dominion government.

He then decided to enter private practice as a mining engineer. He had become convinced that the structures which produced oil and gas in Ohio might well extend beneath Lake Erie into Ontario.

With some financial assistance from his father, Eugene in 1888 began drilling Coste No. 1 in Essex County. On January 23, 1889 the well came in with an initial open flow of 10 million cubic feet.

It was the beginning of the natural gas industry in Ontario.

That same year, in August, a syndicate organized by Eugene and his brother Denis brought in the first commercial well in Welland county, Ontario.

There followed a period of 10 or more years during which many holes were sunk in Ontario, and commercial use of natural gas widened, some gas even being exported to Detroit.

In 1906 the Volcanic Oil and Gas Company was organized with Denis a director. The name came from the belief of Eugene—and many French geologists—that oil and gas originated in inorganic or volcanic rocks, from which they migrated to the sedimentary formations where they were found. This view was contrary to those of English and American geologists that gas and oil are of organic origin—the present view.

In December, 1911, Volcanic was the senior company of those that merged to form Union Gas Company, of which Denis was to become managing director.

Meanwhile Eugene had left Ontario for the West. He had been retained by the Canadian Pacific Railway to find oil and gas in the West. It was during this search that Mr. Coste discovered the Bow Island field, described in Canadian Western's first annual report as the "heart of the company's enterprise."

Bow Island No. 1 was put down late in 1908, and came in the following February, as described elsewhere in this publication.

The success of this discovery well convinced Eugene there might be a field big enough to supply Lethbridge, Calgary and most of Southern Alberta. Then began a series of drillings. By August, 1912, 13 wells had been brought in with a total open flow of approximately 160 million cubic feet a day.

It was on the strength of these discoveries that Eugene Coste took the organizational steps that led to the incorporation on July 19, 1911, of Canadian Western Natural Gas Company.

Coste, in 1911, leased the rights from the C.P.R. in the Bow Island field, acquired the Calgary franchises, and arranged for the financing in London of funds for the 170-mile line to Calgary, laid the following year.

Mr. Coste was the first president of Canadian Western, and also held the office of managing director. In 1913 he became president and chief engineer, and from then until 1921 was president of the company.

In 1913 he built his splendid residence in Mount Royal. After his departure from Calgary the home remained unoccupied for a number of years, and then became an art centre under the Calgary Allied Arts Council. Today it is again a private residence.

In 1922 H. B. Pearson, who had been general superintendent since 1912, succeeded Mr. Coste as president and general manager. Mr. Coste retired and left Calgary to make his home in Toronto and in Europe.

In Toronto, on January 22, 1940, Eugene Coste died at the age of 81.

# Directors through the Years

Throughout its history Canadian Western has been guided by an outstanding group of businessmen.

On this page are listed the directors of the company, and their years of service on the Board, since Canadian Western was incorporated. Photographs of those currently on the Board, except those whose pictures are elsewhere in this brochure, and of some of those who served in the past, are published on this page. Unfortunately it has not been possible either to find or to provide space for photographs of them all.

Eugene Coste	1912 - 1922	Merlin K. DuVal	1930 - 1931
C. A. Masten	1912 - 1916	F. W. Seymour	1931 - 1942
Hon. Clifford Sifton	1912 - 1925	A. F. Traver	1931 - 1933
John Bain	1912 - 1915	A. Vermeer	1931 - 1932
Patrick Burns	1912 - 1913	H. S. Watts	1932 - 1947
N. Scott Russell	1912 - 1923	H. R. Milner	1932 -
John S. Dennis	1912 - 1912	Julian Garrett	1932 - 1946
T. M. Fyshe	1912 - 1914	Stanley E. Slipper	1933 - 1940
W. H. McLaws	1912 - 1917	E. W. Bowness	1933 - 1956
Alexander McLeod	1912 - 1914	P. M. Chandler	1934 - 1935
T. A. McAuley	1914 - 1923	F. A. Smith	1937 - 1959
I. K. Kerr, Sr.	1914 - 1922	D. K. Yorath	1940 - 1949
John W. Sifton	1915 - 1925	Theodore S. Watson	1942 - 1946
J. R. L. Starr	1915 - 1925	F. A. Brownie	1946 - 1956
J. H. Spence	1916 - 1920	A. D. McNab	1946 - 1951
D. L. Redman	1917 - 1918	H. E. Timmins	1947 - 1957
Dillon Coste	1919 - 1922	R. C. McPherson	1949 -
H. B. Pearson	1920 - 1925	F. Stapells	1949 - 1962
A. E. Cross	1922 - 1932	Howard Butcher III	1951 -
Patrick Burns	1922 - 1923	H. W. Francis	1956 - 1958
H. S. Tims	1922 - 1934	B. F. Willson	1956 -
John Burns	1923 - 1925	D. K. Yorath	1956 -
J. W. Davidson	1923 - 1930	F. C. Manning	1957 -
P. D. Mellon	1923 -	G. T. Valentine	1958 - 1959
Harry A. Sifton	1925 - 1925	K. L. MacFadyen	1959 -
C. J. Yorath	1925 - 1932	R. S. Munn	1959 -
F. W. Bacon	1925 - 1931	H. M. Hunter	1961 -
Paul R. Johnson	1925 - 1933	M. E. Hartnett	1961 -
P. M. Chandler	1926 - 1931	J. E. O'Connor	1961 -
A. G. Baalim	1926 -		



The late H. W. Francis



F. Stapells



The late H. E. Timmins



E. W. Bowness



F. A. Smith



Julian Garrett



G. T. Valentine



A. G. Baalim



Howard Butcher III



M. E. Hartnett



H. M. Hunter



F. C. Manning



K. L. MacFadyen



R. C. McPherson



R. S. Munn



J. E. O'Connor

# The Turn-On in Calgary



By P. D. Mellon \*

I remember clearly the events of that historic day in Calgary when gas from Bow Island was turned into the Calgary system, and a flare-lighting ceremony was held. The date was July 17, 1912.

During the day the pressure in the line was being built up to 300 pounds. Suddenly we got word that the line had blown out in a slough at DeWinton. Things looked pretty gloomy, but we rushed several gangs of men down there and they were able to get the line coupled up again, and the pressure built up.

That evening, just after dark, some 10,000 to 12,000 people gathered in the area in East Calgary around the standpipe. Eugene Coste and his wife were there. Whitey Foster was in charge of the control valve.

At a signal from Mr. Coste, Whitey turned on the valve. With a roar, there came out of the pipe first a cloud of dust, followed by stones, splinters and other debris.

The gas came out with a tremendous roar, and the people started to back up. In the meantime Mrs. Coste was standing by with Roman candles.

Mrs. Coste started shooting the candles at the standpipe trying to light the gas. Finally away she went. . . with a terrible bang.

Mr. Coste then signalled to turn down the flow. However, Whitey thought he meant to open the valve still further. This almost caused a panic. People were backing into each other and yelling, but finally order, and the flare, were restored to normal.

That was the introduction of natural gas in the City of Calgary 50 years ago.

\* For biographical note see page 31.

# The Lethbridge Gas Story

By Harold G. Long \*

It was a new version of "carrying coals to Newcastle" when, in 1912, natural gas arrived in Lethbridge via Canadian Western Natural Gas Company's 170-mile 16-inch pipe line from the Bow Island gas field to Lethbridge and Calgary. For Lethbridge was built on a coal mine in a coal field with a reserve of a billion tons, and some seven mines were then operating in the Lethbridge area. Coal mining was then the main industry of the town which had been in existence since 1885.

It was natural that many of the citizens had an in-born antipathy towards a substitute fuel. Coal at the time was being delivered to Lethbridge homes for just over \$3 per ton. It was cheap fuel, and most homes had coal furnaces. Stoking the furnaces and kitchen ranges, carrying out the ashes and clinkers was not considered a popular recreation. And natural gas was cheap, somewhere around 25 cents per MCF. Of course, the coal miners, mostly living in North Lethbridge and getting their coal from the mining company at a nice discount, were strongly opposed to the gas venture.

On October 9, at 9:30 in the evening, a great flare went up from the southwest corner of the R.N.W.M.P. barracks. Gas had arrived in Lethbridge, and the flare was part of the program on the occasion of a visit of the Governor-General, the Duke of Connaught, the Duchess and Princess Pat. A great crowd congregated for the occasion. Natural gas had arrived in the coal town. Back in July they had seen the inaugural flare, but had to wait until a distribution system was built before service could be provided.



These views of Lethbridge were taken in 1911 and 1912. Railway bridge was still under construction.  
—Photos courtesy of Glenbow Foundation



\* For biographical note see page 31.

Harold A. McKillop, a pioneer merchant, living at 1235 - 5th Avenue S., was the first Lethbridge gas customer, according to available records. Gas was turned on in his home on October 4, 1912. The distribution grid to serve the citizens was completed, but it took some time to convert coal furnaces and ranges to use the fuel. The writer shovelled coal a couple of years more before taking the plunge to the new fuel. It took the coal miners a couple of decades before they followed the trend; they felt like traitors.

During the coal era there were times when, due to strikes or other disturbances, coal was hard to come by. Only on one occasion did natural gas fail in its duty. In the fall of 1917, when the weather was far from warm, a blow-out occurred on the gas company's pipeline in a swale close to Chin Lake. Cold meals and cold water were the fare for some three days. But the company took emergency measures, with a special trainload of equipment and a big crew from Calgary, and fast work getting the necessary materials from the unloading point at Taber to the Chin Coulee blow-out point. In 72 hours the shivers were all gone.

During the half century that natural gas has served as the main fuel in Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta, Canadian Western has had five regional superintendents based at Lethbridge.

The first was K. McLaws, whose headquarters were in the Hull



Lethbridge today: A view of the modern residential area, and the important railway yards and part of the city's industrial area.

block, corner of Third Avenue and Seventh Street South. George Phillips was his successor. Third superintendent was Robert S. Winter, one-time member of the North West Mounted Police in the late "90's". Later Mr. Winter looked after natural gas requirements of the Canadian Pacific Railway, at Medicine Hat, from which he came to the Canadian Western at Lethbridge when its office was in a rather pioneer wooden building on 7th Street S. in the 600-block.

Mr. Winter was followed by James J. Morrison who had learned the drilling game with "Frosty" Martin in the Viking field. Mr. Morrison is now retired and still living in Lethbridge. The present fine office was built during his regime.

The present manager of the company's Lethbridge and district is Frank W. Paterson who joined Canadian Western in its Calgary office in 1925. Frank moved to Lethbridge in 1937 and in 1945 became district manager.

Alberta is generally credited with having some 45 billion tons of coal in its reserves. But since 1912 the natural gas pipeline grid has grown to the thousands of miles. The coal will stay in reserve for the time being. Between them, natural gas and coal along with oil, will make Alberta one of Canada's greatest industrial provinces in the years ahead.



# The Hunt for 1912 Customers

Are any of the company's 1912 customers still receiving natural gas service?

This is the question that was asked about the time the company started planning the observance of its 50th anniversary. It was a question to which there was no easy answer. Back in those commencement days records of customers were not kept in the precise manner they are today.

The construction records were searched, and these checked against current lists. The assistance of newspapers, radio and television stations was requested to help find these pioneers of Southern Alberta.



World-famous photographer, Harry Pollard (left) is interviewed by P. E. Heather of the gas company. Mr. Pollard is typical of those listed in these pages who have been customers for 50 years.



"Calgary has been good to us," say Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Jacques, of Calgary, also 50-year customers.



Another 50-year customer is C. M. Baker, past president of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede and now a life director.

The response was overwhelming. Phil Heather of our Calgary office, and Ron Clifford of the Lethbridge office took over the listing of all responses.

Then began the task of contacting each of those who inquired, to be certain that these leads turned up people who had actually—for 50 unbroken years—been our customers.

More than half of the 125 names were eliminated by the time all the interviews had been completed. Those that remained appear on the opposite page.

In some cases it was found that construction in this or that area actually had not been undertaken until 1913 or 1914. In others a break in the record of continuity had occurred by the customer moving away from Alberta for a period of years.

But we found a wonderful group of citizens. Many had been here some years before the advent of natural gas. All had contributed to the growth and culture of Southern Alberta.

We were only too pleased to hear that natural gas had been a boon to them for half a century. "The convenience of natural gas is excellent," they said, or "so clean, so reasonable," "I wouldn't want to be without it," "excellent service," "the company was always ready to help," these are but a few of the comments we received.

Comments such as these more than justify the unrelenting efforts of 50 years to provide the finest service possible. We hope to go on that way.

# Our Customers for 50 Years

Here is the list of Canadian Western customers who first obtained natural gas service in 1912 and are still enjoying that service today—50 years of service without a break.

Every effort has been made to reach and to authenticate our 50-year customers. We are sure there are others we have been unable to reach. To those on this list, and to others like them, we send our warmest wishes.

## C A L G A R Y

Mr. A. E. Anderson  
Mr. C. M. Baker  
Mrs. P. Barton  
Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Beavers  
Mr. D. E. Black  
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon C. Blair  
Mrs. H. Brooks  
Mrs. R. A. Brown  
Dr. and Mrs. A. D. Callum  
Mrs. T. M. Carlyle  
Mrs. F. D. Coggan  
Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Cumming  
Mr. H. D. Ferguson

Mr. A. O. Fisher  
Mrs. J. Fitzgerald  
Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Flegal  
Mrs. T. J. Galvin  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Hart  
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hartrick  
Mrs. Bertha Jackson  
Mrs. G. M. Jackson  
Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Jacques  
Mrs. J. A. Johnston  
Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Knight  
Mr. P. Langley  
Mrs. J. J. B. Little

Mr. J. D. McAra  
Mr. and Mrs. D. L. McDougall  
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. McFarlane  
Miss J. McVeigh  
Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Marshall  
Mr. James Millen  
Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Moir  
Mrs. W. Nelson  
Mr. and Mrs. A. Niven  
Mrs. J. Phelps  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pollard  
Miss P. L. Pue  
Mrs. Hilda Richards

Mrs. W. F. Ross  
Mrs. M. L. Ryan  
Mrs. E. M. Sargent  
Mrs. M. J. Sheedy  
Mr. J. Skelton  
Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Spankie  
Mrs. W. E. Stevenson  
Mr. B. W. Symes  
Mrs. J. N. Vanderburgh  
Mr. C. B. Veilleux  
Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Venables  
Mrs. A. J. Voss  
Mr. W. P. Walker

## L E T H B R I D G E

Dr. and Mrs. L. T. Allen  
Mr. J. F. Hamilton

Mrs. J. G. Harper  
Mrs. I. M. Levitt  
Mrs. W. L. McKenzie

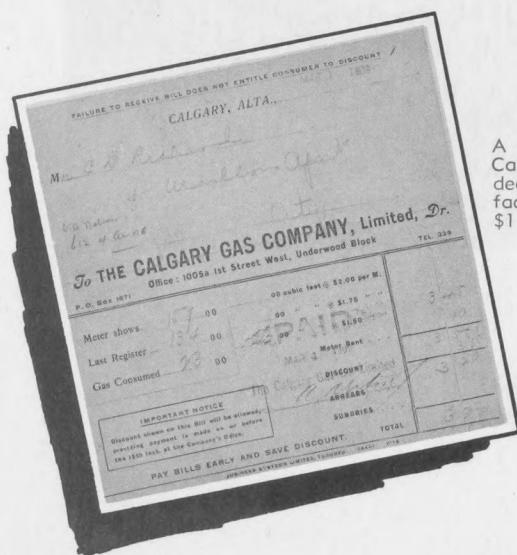
Mr. and Mrs. T. G. McNabb  
Mr. N. B. Peat  
Mr. A. P. Perry

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Sharman  
Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Vallance

# Through the Years



Interior of the old office at 215  
Sixth Avenue West, Calgary.



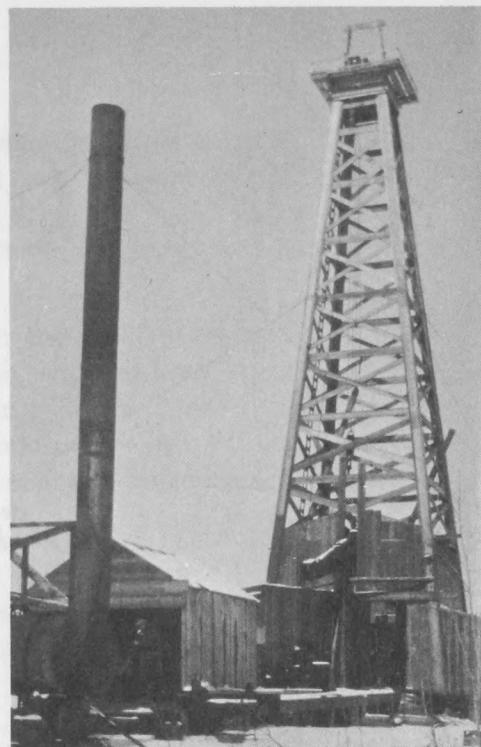
A gas bill from 1909 of the  
Calgary Gas Company, our pre-  
decessor who distributed manu-  
factured gas. Note rate was  
\$1.50 per thousand cubic feet.



The field measuring station in Bow Island gas field in 1920.



Early photo shows construction of dis-  
tribution main. Note old cars, equipment.



The old, wooden derrick was  
typical of the early drilling  
rigs used in Bow Island field.

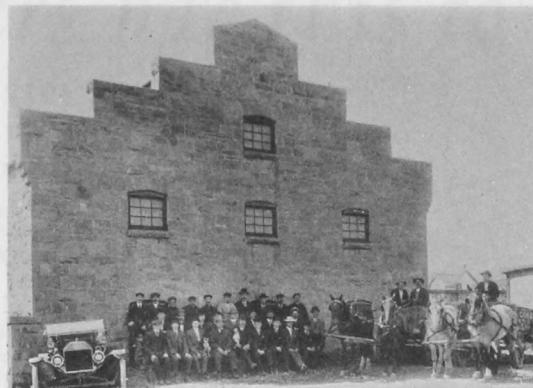


View of the Calgary office in the  
early days. The calendars show  
December, 1913 and January,  
1914. In chair is the late Harold  
E. Timmins. The other employee  
with him is Arthur S. Kruger.

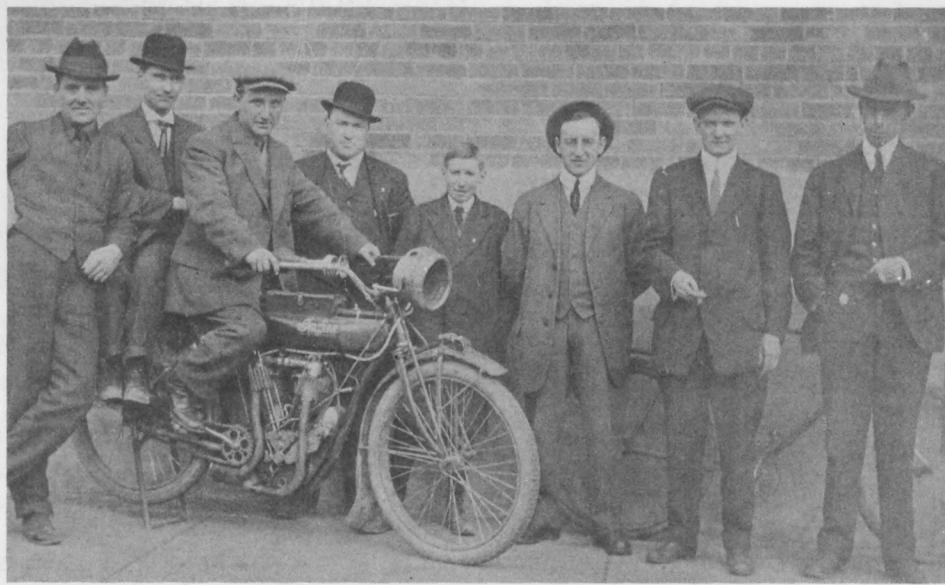


This view of the service truck  
fleet was taken at the West  
End Shop in Calgary in 1929.

View of the staff and part of the manufactured gas plant of the Calgary Gas Company in 1911.



This is how the present office building looked, prior to the addition of six floors in 1957.



1912—the company's office staff at West End Shop in Calgary.



This view of the manufactured gas plant and office staff of the Calgary Gas Company shows gas holder. Picture taken in 1911.

A 1916 gas "cooker". Miss B. Shields shows it in our office.



Interior of the old artificial gas plant. This photo was provided by Tommy Dodds, who worked in the plant from 1908 until natural gas was available and then carried on until he retired in 1951.



The gas company occupied these premises at 215 Sixth Avenue West from 1913 until it moved to its present office in 1952.

# Town Citizens

By Charles A. Clark \*

Back in 1912, delightful enthusiasm was expressed in the columns of The High River Times in the notation that "the present outlook for our city as a gas centre is very bright."

This all came about as a result of a chap named T. E. Forester who came west "to face high adventure." He found instead that each glass of water he drank proved an adventure in swallowing, for it was tainted with the essence of coal oil.

You can see that we've been gas-conscious in High River for quite a while. In much, much earlier days we set up our own company to compete with Canadian Western Natural Gas Company in the year of that company's birth. The High River Natural Gas Company lived for number of years on a small production of gas and a large dose of courage and hope. As a result it was not until 1927 that the town granted a franchise to Canadian Western and gas service was provided to the people.

This year Canadian Western is observing a healthy, happy and constructive record of 50 years of service. Let its competitors of

1912 offer congratulations—and add to them a sincere acknowledgement of appreciation for their service and their policies over those years.

In communities such as High River, a spirit and an action of community service becomes the heart and soul of the town. Upon such community service depends the progress, attitude and growth of a community.

In these smaller towns a citizen's second nature is to watch the newcomers.

Watching the gas company's representatives has been pleasant. They are community people, able and willing to take more than their share in community life; sharing and contributing to the character and charm of our town.

When Canadian Western talks of "service" they don't have to shout too loud down here in High River to make their point. We see their service in almost every field of community effort by the individuals who to us are the gas company—on the volunteer fire brigade, on the curling club executive, in the service clubs, on the library board, in almost every field of activity that contributes to life's enjoyment in Alberta's smaller communities.

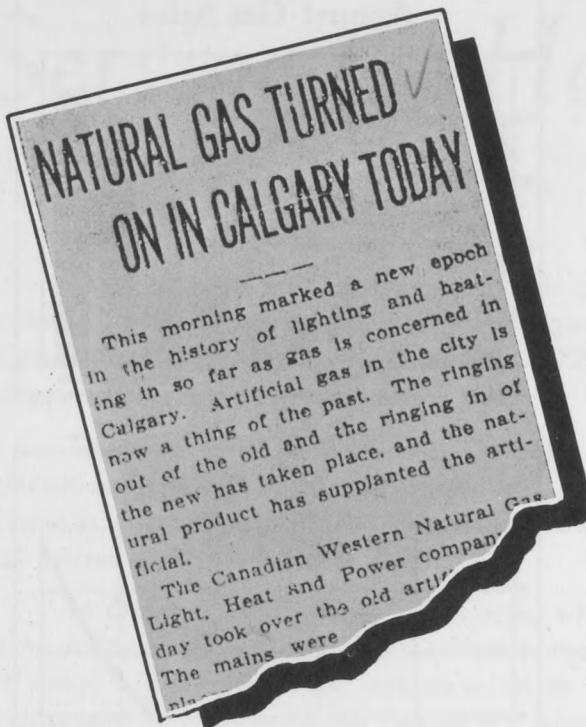
There's a telephone pole stuck in High River's original gas well—just down by the Highwood River. But, we don't mind.

Sure, that pole marks the end of some enthusiastic hopes and aspirations; but it marks also a term of service carried well beyond any natural expectations by Canadian Western—and, in particular, by the local families who represent their company so well in the community.

Congratulations on this fiftieth anniversary; on your progress over the years—but in particular on the contribution you have made to the rural communities by giving us representatives who are worthy citizens in the truest sense of the word.

\* For biographical note see page 31.

*In 1912 the Newspapers had this to say*



The arrival of natural gas in Calgary was signalled by a flare-lighting ceremony on the night of July 17, 1912. The next day these comments appeared in *The Calgary Herald*:

"Last night's demonstration has settled the question of Calgary's cheap power, light and heat, a question that has been a serious factor in all considerations of the manufacturing or industrial development of this city. The column of fire that leaped into the air when the gas was lighted, and the roar of the pressure, would suggest that the supply from Bow Island is practically inexhaustible.

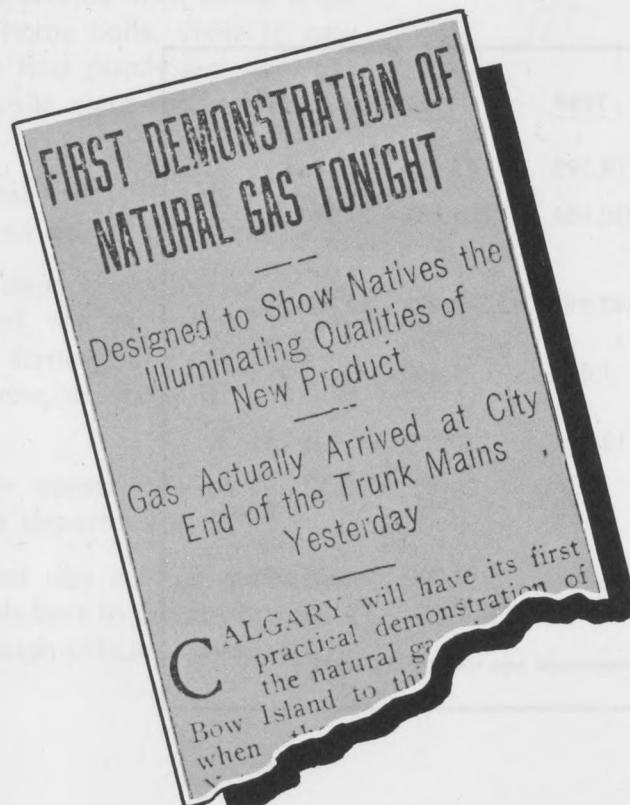
"Thus Calgary slips into possession of another natural force of enormous economic possibilities with nothing more ostentatious than a few people standing around in the night who were largely drawn by a sense of curiosity to see if the contractor had made good.

"To complete this (pipeline) in three short months, and pull off the first public demonstration in the highly satisfactory manner which marked last night's proceedings, says volumes for the efficiency and dispatch of those who undertook the work and brought it to a successful conclusion."

The Lethbridge Herald of July 16, 1912, had this to say in commenting on the 275 to 112 vote for the natural gas bylaw:

"The City of Lethbridge had every cause for congratulations on the success of the natural gas bylaw yesterday . . . it will mean much to the city and those who opposed it will in time too come to realize that they were mistaken. With every other city and town in the south having gas as an asset Lethbridge simply couldn't afford to be without it.

"Natural gas will not only provide a big convenience to those who now reside here but will prove an added inducement to others to make this city their home. Lethbridge did well to endorse the bylaw."



# FIRST NATURAL GAS FLARE IN CALGARY'S HISTORY LAST NIGHT

# FLARE IN HISTORY LAST

With a flare of gas that shot 60 feet into the darkness, under a 100 pounds pressure, Calgary last night at 10 o'clock witnessed the first illumination by natural gas in its history. Before fully 12,000 people the Western Canadian Natural Gas, Heat, Light and Power Company turned gas into its main. The pipe was bushed at the top so that the flare reached 60 feet into the darkness, illuminating the city for miles around. The flare took place at the intersection of Ninth avenue east and the C. F. R. tracks.

Assembly Started

from President Eugene

the inch

released a

He had

another

(Applause).

Alderman Hornby remarked that he was one

of the

Assembly.

At a signal from President Eugene Coste, the valve which released a pressure of 100 pounds to the inch was turned on and for fifteen minutes it continued to startle the enormous crowd which had assembled. At the first blast, several people, fearing proximity, scattered in all directions, and the slope leading to the main valve and regarding the mass of lines upon it, in awed silence.

This is the way the Calgary Alber-  
tan, known then as The Morning Alber-  
tan, referred to the introduction of  
natural gas to Calgary, in an editorial  
in its issue of July 19, 1912:

"The turning on of the natural gas from Bow Island, the first demonstration of which took place night before last, marked an epoch in the history of Calgary.

"If all or even a good measure of what has been promised by the promoters of the enterprise is realized, history may be expected to recite that the industrial development of Calgary dated from the day gas became available in the city.

"No doubt the coming of the gas carries large measures of good for Calgary and if its use proves as economical as we are assured it will, the benefits will be large indeed."

# Half a Century of Progress . . .

It's a far cry from the days of 1912, when Canadian Western was supplying natural gas to 6,700 customers in five communities, to the bustling Alberta of today.

Now, in mid-year 1962, natural gas service is provided by Canadian Western to almost 100,000 customers in 81 communities throughout Southern Alberta.

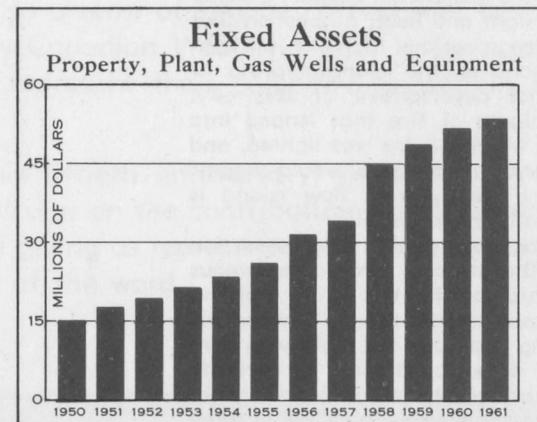
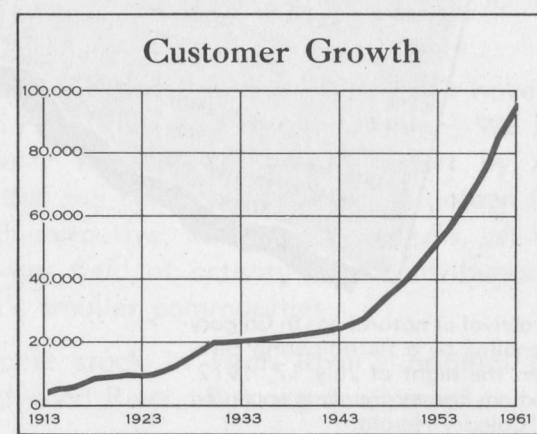
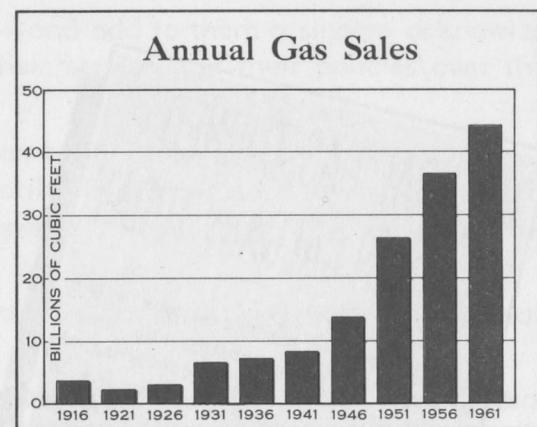
The accompanying graphs and statistics illustrate the growth of the company. A system map is provided showing the communities served, the pipeline system linking them, and the natural gas fields which provide the supplies.

It is interesting to note that in the period from 1912 to 1930 the Bow Island field produced a total of 33.6 billion cubic feet—some 11 billion cubic feet less than is now used in a single year. At the beginning of this year recoverable natural gas reserves in fields connected to the company's system were estimated to be in excess of 1,100 billion cubic feet.

From small beginnings Canadian Western has risen to become one of the largest and most efficient natural gas companies in Canada.

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1951</u>
Customers at Year End	96,669	92,206	87,045	79,595	73,624	46,903
Natural Gas Sales (thousands of cubic feet)	44,276,166	41,414,287	41,621,657	36,920,958	37,601,442	26,349,337
Annual Gross Additions to Plant (1)	\$2,154,889	\$3,459,462	\$4,460,376	\$10,847,792	\$3,218,274	\$2,765,905
Miles of Pipeline	1,935	1,904	1,763	1,606	1,465	958
Maximum Daily Demand (thousands of cubic feet)	253,613	214,218	225,346	212,814	200,100	141,760
Communities Served (2)	80	82	63	53	51	21
Population Served	362,000	349,000	322,000	301,000	281,000	151,000

(1) Ten year total of gross additions to Plant \$39,566,344.  
(2) Effective December 31, 1961, communities of Forest Lawn and Midnapore incorporated into the City of Calgary.



# *Serving the Homemaker*

While advice and assistance to our customers on cooking and related problems of service were freely given from the early days of Canadian Western it was not until 1929 that the home service department was officially organized.

That year the late Harold E. Timmins, manager of new business, persuaded Hesperia Lee Aylsworth, now Mrs. J. Ross Henderson, to leave a similar position in Vancouver and join Canadian Western as home service director.

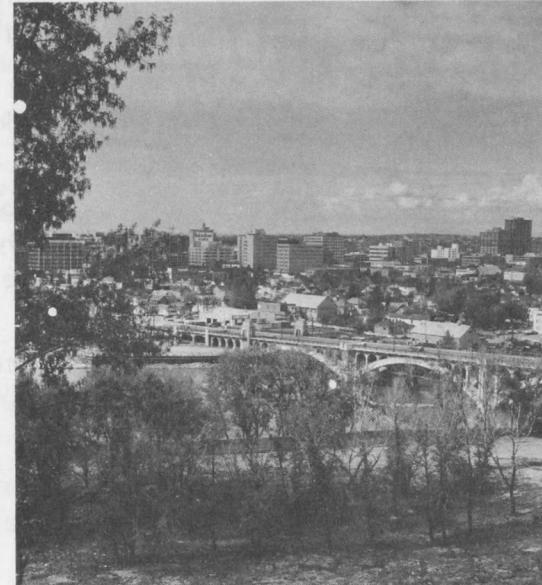
In October, 1929 Miss Aylsworth, who was a graduate of the University of Alberta, began the first home service work as we know it today. Her early work was devoted to home calls, visits to new customers and to calls on customers who had purchased new gas ranges. During the first year 616 such calls were made. Soon a series of cooking schools was arranged.

The purpose of these calls, as is the case today, was to acquaint the housewife with the proper operation and use of gas appliances.

Since those early days the work of the department has expanded greatly, keeping pace with the growth of the company. Today appliance promotions and home shows are some of the major items in the department's agenda. In one year now, in excess of 150,000 recipes are distributed to housewives.

More than 18,000 telephone calls for assistance—plus 3,000 interviews—are now made annually by the department.

All of this work continues day in and day out as our home economists, like the rest of the staff, do their best to assist customers to enjoy the finest in household service through efficient use and full understanding of their gas appliances.



Calgary today.



Our Calgary office building.

# The Friendly Servant



Natural gas came to Alberta 50 years ago as a boon to the householder—a fuel available at the turn of a valve and relief from the drudgery of hauling coal in and ashes out.

Gas lighting was also popular in those early years, and gas street lamps were common in our cities and towns.

But much has happened in those 50 years. Diligent research, perfection of appliances and ever more new uses for natural gas have made it today a premium fuel that performs many tasks efficiently and automatically.

Gone are the old ranges that in the beginning were merely converted coal and wood stoves. Gone are valves turned by hand to increase or decrease the heat in a converted furnace.

Today shining, bright, automatic equipment is available that makes natural gas the most modern of fuels . . . and the most efficient, too, wherever heat is needed.

Natural gas does the big jobs around the home . . . cooking, clothes drying, heating and water heating, incineration, refrigeration . . . yes today the gas light is back . . . lending its soft glow of illumination to patios and driveways.

And what of industry . . . ?

Here, too, natural gas has changed the face of Alberta. Originally it merely replaced conventional fuels under boilers. But today it does a thousand jobs—26,000 in fact if we are to take an enumeration made by the American Gas Association.

Today natural gas not only fires boilers, but is used as a raw material itself in the petrochemical industry. It heats metal, makes steam, provides controlled atmospheres, generates electricity in gas-fired turbines in power plants, melts glass, and does a thousand big and little jobs in a hundred different industries. Yes, and it not only heats buildings, but through the magic of air-conditioning equipment, cools them, too.

And, of course, it is used everywhere in commercial kitchens, in bakeries, hotels, hospitals and restaurants.

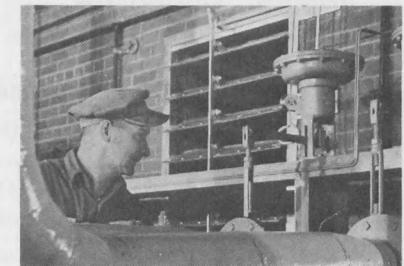
Natural gas has come a long way from those early hand-controlled uses to today's automatic, never-need-to-touch-it equipment. It has contributed greatly to the development of Alberta, and will go on doing so for generations to come.



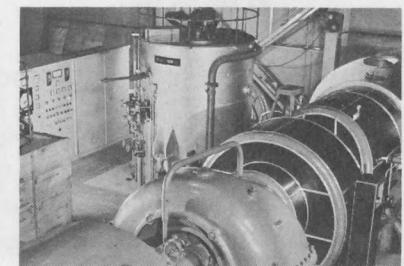
Through miles of pipelines such as this one natural gas is brought to communities throughout Southern Alberta.



A modern, gas-equipped kitchen.



Natural gas plays an important role in the industrial development of Alberta.



Here natural gas is generating electricity in the City of Lethbridge power plant.

# The Authors

This book is the result of the combined efforts of a large group of people, all of whom were concerned with preserving the history of an important Alberta industry.

We are particularly indebted to Harold G. Long, John Hopkins, Charles A. Clark, O. N. Scott and P. D. Mellon.

The thanks of Canadian Western go also to employees throughout the company who assisted by providing photographs, anecdotes and reports on historical events. Special mention should be made of Harry M. Hunter, Harvey S. Greenway, W. Lloyd McPhee, Charles W. Ross, and P. E. Heather, all of whom worked with J. A. Fleming and his staff to make its publication possible.

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## H. G. LONG

Harold G. Long, veteran Lethbridge newspaperman, known far and wide as "Mr. Southern Alberta," was born on a farm in Huron County, Ontario. His career began as a teacher following graduation from Regina Normal School.

He was the first teacher in Woolford, east of Cardston; and in the next few years served at Lethbridge and other Alberta points. In 1910 he returned to Lethbridge to teach school for a year.

Mr. Long then joined the Lethbridge Herald as a reporter, and through the years became news editor, managing editor, general manager, and finally on the death of Senator W. A. Buchanan in 1954, vice-president and publisher. In 1956 Mr. Long retired from active newspaper work. Today he is chairman of the board of the Lethbridge Herald under its new owners, FP Publications.

## O. N. SCOTT

We are indebted to O. N. Scott of Toronto for contributing the letter from the late W. R. "Frosty" Martin which tells of the drilling of the discovery well in the Bow Island field. Mr. Scott has been a shareholder of Canadian Western since 1912, and throughout its history has maintained an active interest in its affairs. This photograph of Mr. Scott was taken in April, 1962 during his visit to Calgary to attend the annual meeting of shareholders.

## P. D. MELLON

Mr. Mellon supervised construction of most of the company's plant during his long career with Canadian Western, which began in February, 1912. He retired as a vice-president in 1949. Mr. Mellon has the distinction of having the longest service of any of Canadian Western's directors, having served continuously on the board since December 19, 1923.

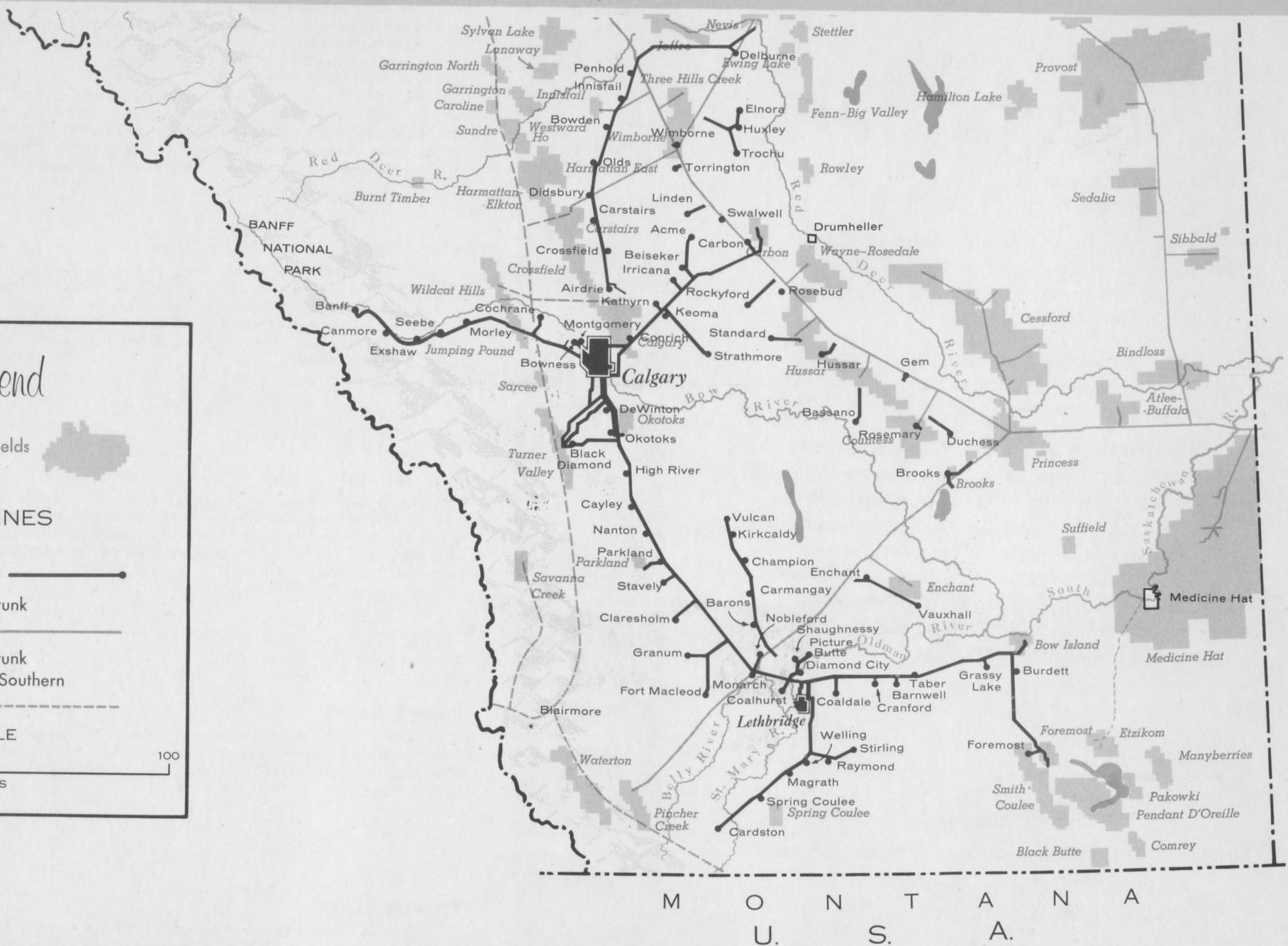
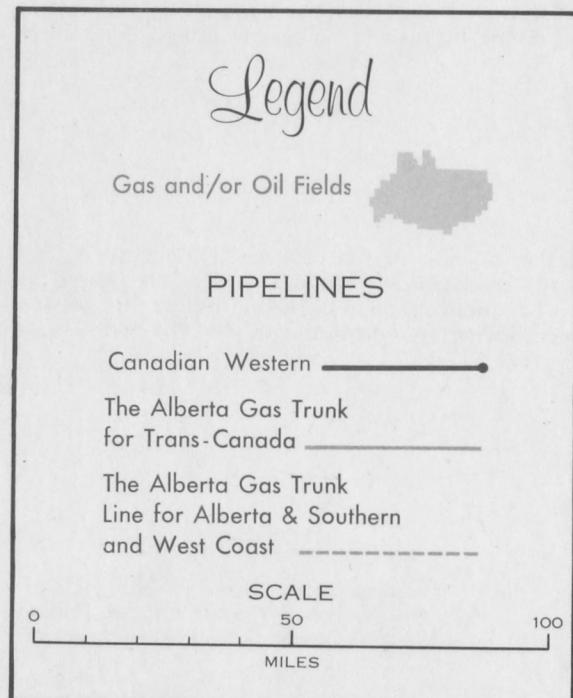
## JOHN HOPKINS

John Hopkins is a well-known Alberta newspaperman. Born in Bentley, Mr. Hopkins worked on the Edmonton Journal and the Red Deer Advocate prior to joining The Calgary Herald in 1954. Until 1961 he was widely known as a curling and golf writer. He is now an editorial writer.

## CHARLES CLARK

Charles Clark is one of Alberta's best known weekly editors. His father founded the Okotoks Review in 1903 and the High River Times in 1905. Mr. Clark has been associated with the two papers since 1928, and became publisher on the death of his father in 1947. A former director of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association, Mr. Clark was secretary for nine years and is a past president of the Alberta Weekly Newspaper Association.

# System Map



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